Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park Foundation

ISSUE 3 • 2023

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT HYDE PARK FOUNDATION'S

THE NEW DEAL

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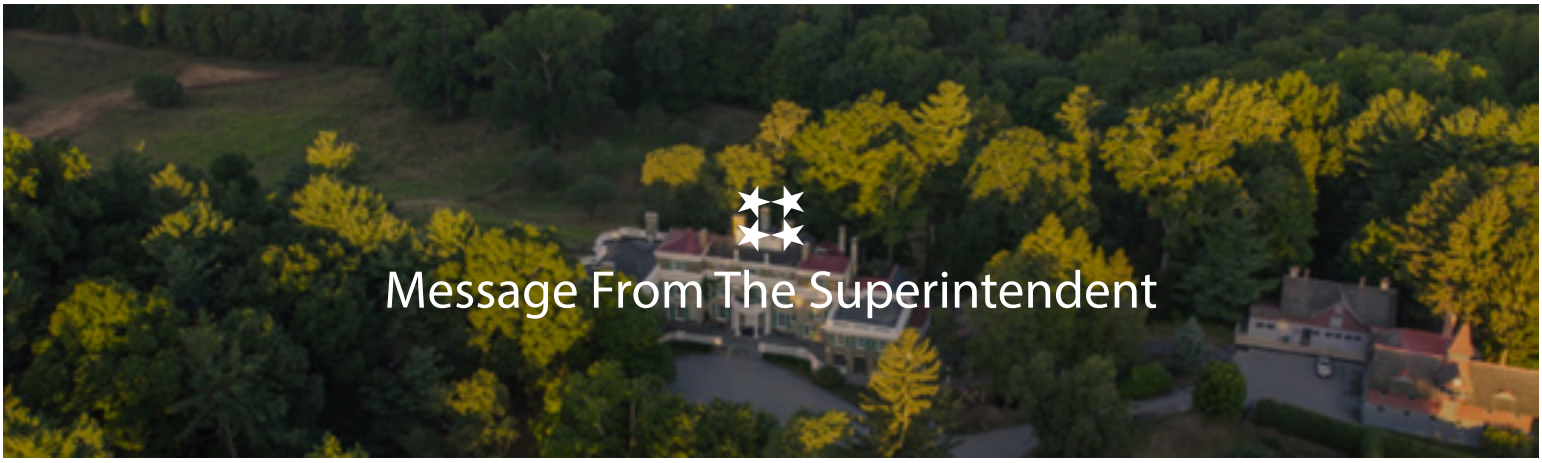
'The New Deal' was a series of programs, public work projects, financial reforms, and regulations enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the United States between 1933 and 1939.

Today, we are using it as the name of our newsletter to inform you of what the Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park Foundation, and our partners, the National Park Service, are working on together to further the preservation and enhancement of the National Historic Sites at Hyde Park, New York. With donations from people like you, we are able to continue this important work.

Thank you for your support. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Kevin Burke
Chair, FDR Hyde Park Foundation



Message From The Superintendent

Amy Bracewell
Superintendent
Roosevelt • Vanderbilt • Van Buren
National Historic Sites

Happy New Year Friends!

As I reflect on this last year at the national parks in Hyde Park, I am grateful, in awe, and exhausted by the long list of accomplishments we carried out. With an incredibly talented federal staff and supportive park partners, we hosted many significant events and made impressive headway in the preservation of our historic sites.

Speaking of historic sites, I want to start with a big thank you to the FDR Hyde Park Foundation for your support in many preservation projects this year. Through grant funding, we were able to successfully replace the gold wallpaper in the Springwood "Snuggery" and restore the furnishings to re-open the space. Secondly, the NPS restored the FDR Estate's ice house which is located just behind the stables. Through a generous donation by a Foundation board member, the park has been able to place historically accurate tools in the ice house to give visitors an idea of how such a building would have been used. What a great addition to our interpretation!

The other major preservation project in 2023 was the repointing of the east terrace of Springwood. It was remarkable to watch the NPS Historic Preservation Specialists work as they removed each individual stone, noted its location, and placed them on a template to return to the same spot. The improved surface now provides an easier and cleaner entry to Springwood. In June of 2023, we were proud to host the official launch of the U.S. Mint's new Eleanor Roosevelt Quarter. As part of their American Women Quarters Program, the U.S. Mint chose Hyde Park to hold the launch ceremony for this new quarter. Speakers included the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Mint and Eleanor's own great granddaughter, Perrin Roosevelt Ireland. Local school children attended the ceremony and were the first recipients of the new quarter.

Celebrations of Eleanor continued throughout the year and culminated in the December 10 commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This commemoration was an inspiring reflection of the vast network of park partners and community organizations who tirelessly work for the protection of human rights. So many park partners came forward to support the anniversary in one way or another.

This last summer, the NPS worked closely with the FDR Presidential Library to launch and celebrate their new exhibit on "Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts." On exhibit through the end of 2024, this integral piece of American history not only highlights the work done during the Roosevelts' lifetimes but also provides the arc of relevancy for our world today. The NPS is proud to be a part of this discussion through the commission of our historic resource study, "The Roosevelts and Civil Rights Leaders."

Read the article here >

The NPS is also excited to have a different historic resource study finished this last year focused on Eleanor Roosevelt and sexuality.

Titled: "Courage to Love: Gender and Sexuality in the Life of Eleanor Roosevelt," this study looks at the history of women during the time of Eleanor Roosevelt, the roles and expectation of gender, and notions of love and partnership in Eleanor's world. This study was commissioned through the Organization of American Historians.

Read the article here >

In addition to two incredible reports, the parks were selected to host a 2-year Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow. Shelby Landmark joined the parks from Texas and will be providing research and interpretive support around the topic of disability representation in history. We are thrilled to be able to elevate this topic and provide a platform to explore the history of disability, especially at the Home of FDR!

If all of that wasn't enough, the talented rangers at the parks developed an incredibly moving and impactful video series on the Japanese American internment camps during President Roosevelt's tenure. "10 Camps, 10 Stories: Beyond the Barbed Wire" is a 10-part video series on the 10 camps and the individuals who were incarcerated.

View the video here >

As you can see, we have been incredibly blessed with riches between preservation work, research, special programming, and nurturing our local connections. I am energized by the work we do with our partners, volunteers, and communities. And there is continually more work to be done! I hope these highlights will inspire you to get involved in some way and support the incredible history we have here in Hyde Park. I look forward to connecting with you here at the parks!

Repointing of the east terrace

Entrance to the Ice House

New historically accurate tools in

FDR Hyde Park Foundation Supports The Rehabilitation Of The Snuggery

Archive Shot of The Original Snug-

Sara Roosevelt (FDR's Mother)

Fragment of the original wallpaper, circa 1915

Located in Springwood, Hyde Park, NY (FDR's home), the South Parlor was where FDR's mother, Sara, managed the household and estate. Now affectionately known as The Snuggery, it was Sara's private domain. Some of the oldest and most precious family heirlooms are preserved there.

In 2023, the National Park Service undertook a rehabilitation of The Snuggery, the main focus being the replacement of the wallpaper. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park Foundation was pleased to support the NPS's work on this project. The Donald Borquist Bequest funded the project.

Park historians believe Sara introduced the original wallpaper in this room when the house was altered in 1915. By 1964, this original paper was in such poor condition that it needed to be replaced with a reproduction that remained in the room until today.

Now, nearly 60 years later, it was time to replace the wallpaper again. The current paper was soiled, and the removal of old security and fire detection systems has left unsightly scars.

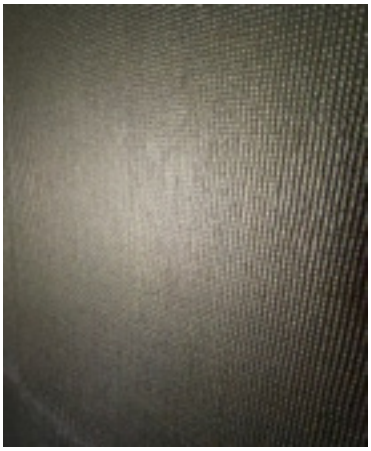
The paper fabric is hand-embossed with a weave texture and washed with a gold sheen. Only three small fragments of the original paper survive, preserved in the park's museum collection. Embossed papers such as this are not easy to manufacture. The French firm Atelier d'Offard is one of the few remaining manufacturers of embossed papers, specializing in reproducing historic wallpapers used in restorations worldwide, and they supplied the new replica wallpaper.

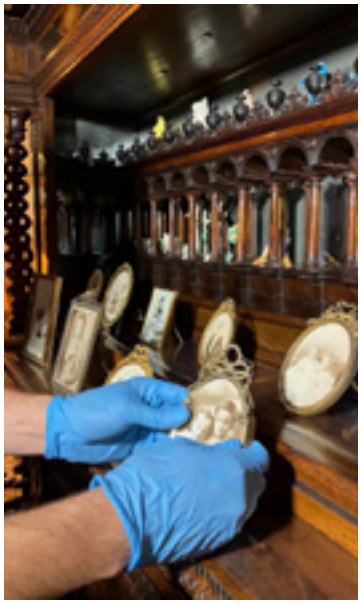
National Park Service staff removed the existing paper and repaired and prepped the walls. Wall repairs included patching penetrations and plaster losses.

Evidence of hand-blocking in the finished product required highly specialized skill to hang the paper correctly. The park worked with Jim Yates, master paperhanger and owner of Historic Wallpaper Specialties. Yates (and his team) brought extensive experience working with historic houses, including Mount Vernon, Montpelier, The Hermitage, Lindenwald, Boscobel, and the White House.

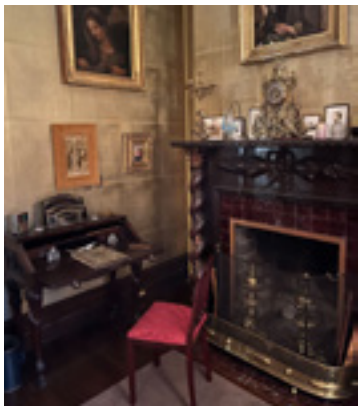
This project coincides with the conservation treatment of several gilt frames from this room and the treatment of a large continental cabinet that requires conservation before it can return to exhibit.

The Snuggery reopened to the public in mid-September 2023.





Replacing The Heirlooms



The New Rehabilitated Snuggery

Roosevelt Home Vegetable Garden Report 2023

A Year of Flourishing Partnerships

Every year, the Roosevelt Home Garden's community partnerships pay huge rewards to our garden, the park, and its visitors. Through partnerships, we gain knowledge, expand our outreach, get inspired, and inspire others.

April 2023, Home Garden Volunteers preparing for the season

Dutchess Outreach: Our Partner in Food Access

Dutchess Outreach, the garden's partner in community access to locally grown food, is a constant source of ingenuity and innovation in addressing community needs. This year, they revamped their market to make it the most enjoyable and inclusive farm market in the region. Changes include: the schedule – now once a week on Wednesdays; the location – right next to their own beautiful production and community garden at the Family Partnership in Poughkeepsie; and their pricing – pay what you can or free. In combination, these adjustments have created a market that welcomes everyone and offers a joyful way for all of us to celebrate and benefit from locally grown food. This year, 360 crates of produce grown in the Roosevelt Home Garden were donated to Dutchess Outreach, which is the largest donation from any farm or organization to the market. We look forward to bringing additional donations next year to supplement the growing need for fresh produce. Participating in this market supports all of Dutchess Outreach Feeding programs, so please check it out in 2024.

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Morgan Miller

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with Vassar College we welcomed Morgan Miller, a Science, Technology and Society student. Morgan split her days between horticulture every morning and independent research every afternoon. She pursued research on Springwood Estate management in the FDR Presidential library where her work resulted in the translation of a shorthand notebook of Sara Delano Roosevelt's dictated correspondence which sheds light on her day to day affairs. Morgan also developed an interactive mapping tool for sharing information on the garden designs of Beatrix Farrand across the country, and developed a tool for evaluating the impact of a new public tour of the vegetable garden developed this year. She won the Open Space Institute's Barnabas McHenry award for her work in landscape preservation and conservation.

Gardens inspire life-long learning, and we were fortunate to see the robust return of adult learners to the vegetable garden this year. The Cultural Landscape Foundation brought landscape architects and landscape afficionados to the garden. Bard Life Long Learning students dove into soil science with a lab-based class led by our horticulturists. Garden clubs are happily back to visiting with expert questions and lively curiosity.

Partners in Education from Pre-K to College, and Beyond

Friends at the Culinary Institute of America shared inoculated mushroom logs for the Small Space Garden Exhibit.
Photo: Elizabeth Walden

Overlapping interests and missions have connected us in new and meaningful ways with our partners in schools, colleges, and life-long learning programs.

Park staff visited the Pre-K/K classroom at Poughkeepsie Day School this spring to help them plant their garden for a curriculum that culminated with their own farmstand at school. The class came to the Roosevelt vegetable garden a few weeks later to help us with some big garden projects!

Collaboration with the Culinary Institute of America generated a range of unique educational opportunities throughout the year. Fourteen Masters in Sustainable Food Systems students visited the park in the summer, and 20 Farm to Table Students came for a tour of the garden and archives, where they explored the journals of the Roosevelt's Gardener, examined historic photos and interesting artifacts like Eleanor Roosevelt's Japanese pruners and a jar of Val Kill honey labeled for holiday giving. These college students returned later to join the PDS Pre-K/K group, harvesting produce for a cooking class back at school with the kids. We were delighted to see how our garden has become a catalyst for bringing partner groups together!

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Local Library Partners

Library partnerships were especially fruitful this year. NPS Horticulturist Susan MacAvery participated in the FDR library/NPS collaboration "Common Ground" video series. Her interview about the Roosevelt vegetable garden with FDR library Education Specialist, Jeff Urbin, can be **viewed here.**

Starr and Morton Libraries hosted FDR garden programs, both in the parks and in the libraries, through panel discussions, "Lunch and Learns", career exploration days and book clubs. Staatsbugh Library's Pollinator Patrol Club made numerous hikes through the gardens to observe, enjoy and wonder about nature.

Partners Within the Park

Our colleagues in the interpretation and cultural resources programs advanced the garden in several new ways. Interpretive Ranger Megan Porter developed a tour of the garden for visitors that connects the garden themes to the Roosevelt legacy and history in Hyde Park. Ranger Elizabeth Walden used her masterful photography and journalism skills to share garden updates through some of the most liked social media posts in the park. NPS carpenter, Chad Rymph, constructed the beautiful new garden information kiosk designed by our 2022 Vassar College Intern.

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Dave Hayes, Resource Management Team Leader, retired this year. Dave has been instrumental in the re-establishment of the vegetable garden since the earliest planning stages. He supported the garden to the very end of his tenure, constructing the wooden grape arbor at the northwest corner of the garden and freeing our tractor from a giant hunk of buried rubble in the midst of spring planting season. Dave is missed on every conceivable level; his legacy is large in the vegetable garden.

David Hayes and Anna de Cordova, NPS Horticulturist. Photo: Jennifer Henion.

Benches for the vegetable garden were purchased from a generous gift from the trust of Donald Borquist, a former park employee who passed away in March.

Garden Volunteers

Perhaps our closest partnership of all is with the amazing volunteers who help us to plan, plant, maintain, and harvest the garden. Eleven new and repeating volunteers joined the ranks this year, with a total of 75 volunteers contributing 1,013 hours caring for the vegetable garden and the Rose Garden & Gravesite at the Home of FDR.

Photos: Elizabeth Walden

Research Partners

Cornell University continues to be our go-to partner for research-based information on soils, crop production and organic pest management. Their soil lab analyzed our vegetable garden samples and determined we have achieved an excellent level of soil health over the past five years, but reducing tillage in the future will help us to improve even more. We used Cornell's guidance to establish a comprehensive program to manage pests of cucurbits this year, including the use of trap crops, landscape fabric ground covers, resistant varieties, bug-picking, and organic sprays. Last year, Cornell Cooperative Extension advised and loaned us equipment for a beneficial nematode trial. Thanks to this help, the garden had fewer problems this year with soil born insect pests (onion/cabbage maggots and wireworms) and produced a bumper crop of delicious Upstate Abundance potatoes.

Photo: Elizabeth Walden

The 75th Anniversary Of The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights (UDHR)

On December 10, 2023 the NPS and the FDR Presidential Library commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) with a Human Rights Day Expo and many special programs. Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, the Declaration established clear rights for every human around the globe. As chairperson of the UN Committee for Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt spearheaded the drafting of the declaration and shepherded it through a divided UN to adoption. The tenets of the UDHR remain strongly relevant today.

Roosevelt's service to the UN and the world cemented her legacy as a champion for human rights. She not only saw human rights as an issue worldwide, but Eleanor was also concerned with the human and civil rights of people in the United States. One of her most famous quotes "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home…" puts the spotlight on our individual efforts to ensure human rights are supported in our own communities and neighborhoods. Eleanor Roosevelt's dedication to human rights is a model for us all.

Commemorative events on December 10 included talks on human rights-related topics, animated films commissioned by the Library, a musical concert, and an expo highlighting a diverse group of local organizations supporting all facets of human rights. The FDR Presidential Library and Museum also had a special temporary exhibit of Eleanor Roosevelt's copy of the UDHR.

New York Human Rights Commissioner Maria Imperial with a panel of local human rights advocates. (NYS Division of Human Rights photo)

The Dutchess County community came together to plan and host this event. The planning and support team included the National Park Service, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission, the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the FDR Hyde Park Foundation, the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Roosevelt Institute, and the United Nations Association, Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter.

Free copies of the UDHR are available at the Wallace Center at the Home of FDR as well as at Val-Kill. Other commemorative events and programs will take place throughout 2024.

A video of Amy Bracewell, Superintendent of Roosevelt, Vanderbilt, and Van Buren National Historic Sites, and William Harris, Director of the FDR Presidential Library, talking about this great accomplishment from Val-Kill, the home of Eleanor Roosevelt, **can be viewed here.**

Dutchess County placed educational markers along the Dutchess County Rail Trail to highlight the 30 articles of the UDHR (Dutchess County photo)

US Mint Launches Eleanor Roosevelt Quarter

On July 8th, 2023, saw the launch presentation of the US Mint's new Eleanor Roosevelt Quarter Coin.

Hosted by the Culinary Institue of America in Hyde Park, NY, the presentation included keynote speakers from the National Park Service, local government, and members of the Roosevelt family, namely Eleanor Roosevelt's great-grandaughter, Perrin Roosevelt Ireland, along with live music from the Haviland Middle School Orchestra.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Quarter is the eighth **American Women Quarters™ Program** coin. Eleanor Roosevelt was a first lady, author, civil liberties advocate, and Chairperson of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. She was instrumental in the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and was the wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States of America.

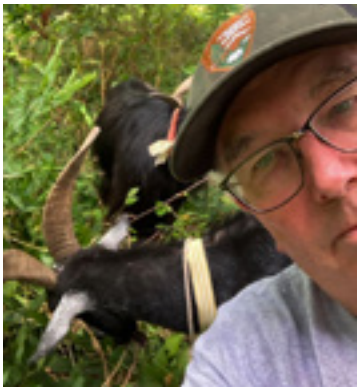
Learn more here >

Click here to watch the full presentation.

Perrin Roosevelt Ireland, Eleanor Roosevelt's great-granddaughter

Amy Bracewell, Superintendent, Roosevelt, Vanderbilt, Van Buren National Historic Sites

Dave Hayes Retires

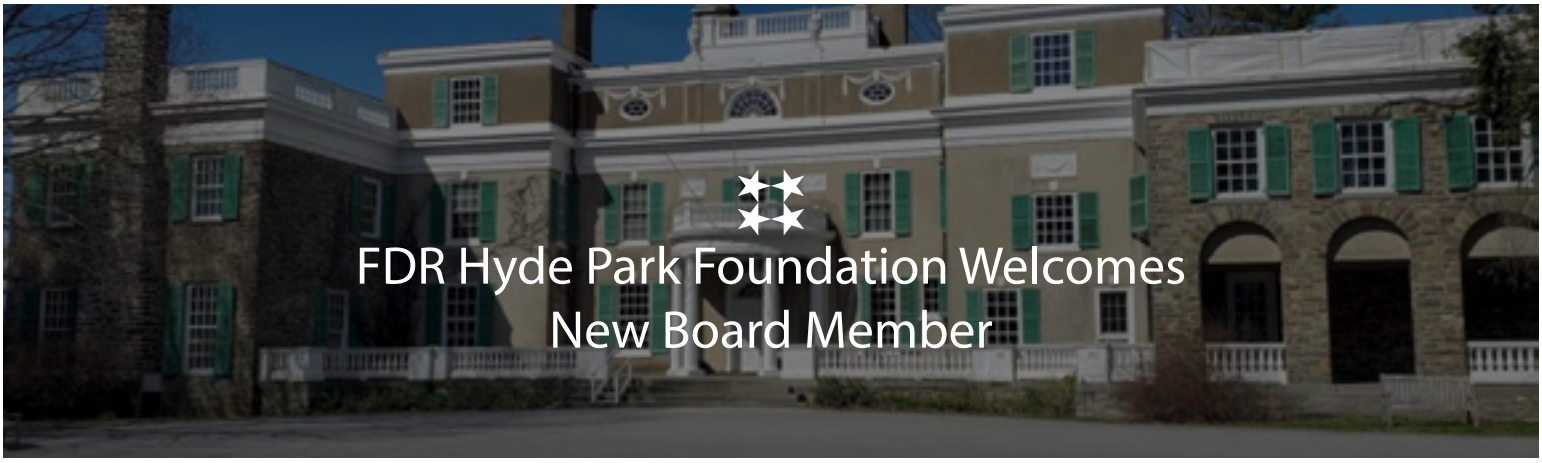


Picture of Dave Hayes with his goats

October 31, 2023, was the Retirement Day for Dave Hayes, a long-serving and much-respected Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site Park Ranger who played a special role as the Foundation's liaison to the NPS.

Dave started at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS in August 1982 and did just about every job in the park, including maintenance, law enforcement, facility, and resource management, contracting, serving on the safety committee, and working as a tour guide, hiker of trails, and even goat wrangler. He liked to call it "Camp Dave." Dave is universally liked by all who worked with him, who prized his dry sense of humor, which is hilarious and brilliant. We at The FDR Hyde Park Foundation sincerely thank Dave for all his years of dedication and service. He will be genuinely missed. Learn more about Dave from his **#MyParkStory**

Dave at his retirement ceremony with Park Superintendent Amy Bracewell



FDR Hyde Park Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

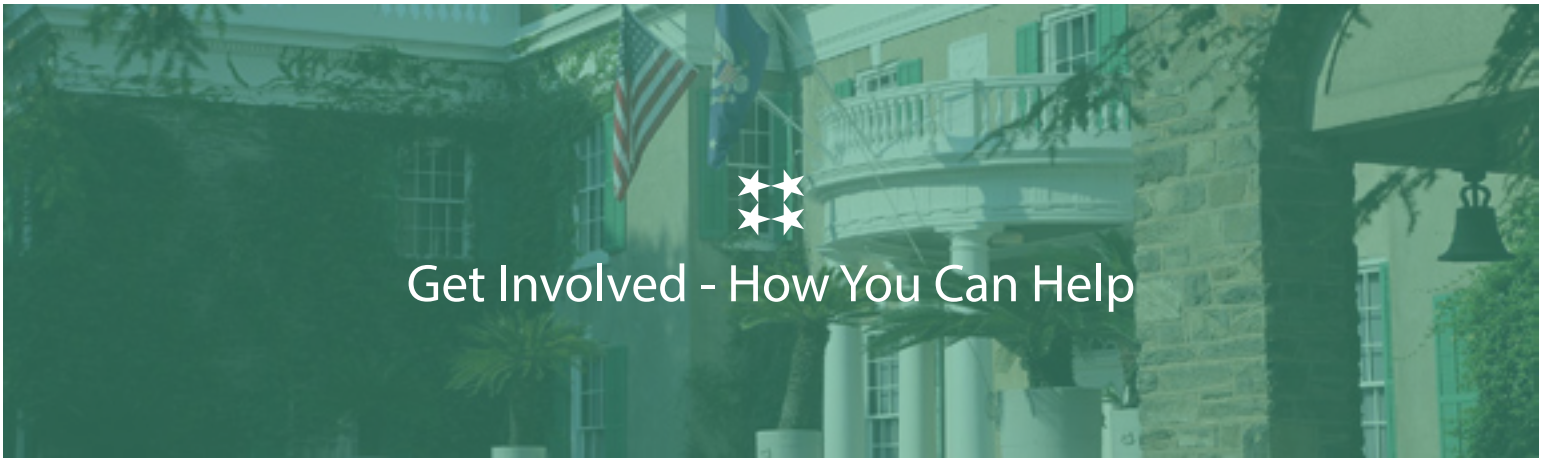
The FDR Hyde Park Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of a new board member, Caitlyn Germinaro.

Caitlyn is a Human Services professional whose passion is supporting and advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Caitlyn is currently a Training Specialist for a non-profit organization serving people with disabilities and partnering with communities across 38 counties in New York State. In 2022, she received a CP State Annual Conference Staff Recognition Award. She also received the 2023 Leadership Dutchess Community Advocate Award and graduated from the Leadership Dutchess program.

Caitlyn holds a BS from The College of Saint Rose and an MS from Walden University. A golfer, gardener, and sunset enthusiast, she lives in Red Hook, NY, with her husband and their two dogs.

Caitlyn Germinaro

Franklin D Roosevelt



Get Involved - How You Can Help

Springwood House - FDR's Home

Preserving these National Historic Sites is of great importance in protecting the integrity of the Roosevelt's legacy, the buildings, gardens, and surrounding forests for people to experience, learn about, and enjoy. This is achieved through the hard work and dedication of the National Park Service and by the raising of supplemental funds by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park Foundation. You, too, can help us with this by subscribing to our newsletter online, or by making a donation today.

Thank you!

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Hyde Park Foundation

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